

# MESSAGE

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**SKILLS**future SG

Manufacturing is an integral part of Singapore's economy and accounted for about a fifth of Singapore's Gross Domestic Product in 2015. The sector has the potential to continue to provide many good jobs for Singaporeans. The Committee on the Future Economy has identified advanced manufacturing as a key growth sector. A recent Boston Consulting Group study also projected that 22,000 more new jobs could be created in the manufacturing sector over the next eight years such as for data scientists and robot coordinators.

To thrive in an increasingly competitive environment, manufacturing firms need to transform themselves by raising productivity, upskilling their employees, driving innovation, and through internationalisation. To support this growth, SkillsFuture Singapore and government agencies, together with the industry and union have collaborated to launch Industry Transformation Maps (ITM), which provide growth and competitiveness blueprints for enterprises. The ITM for Precision Engineering was rolled out in October 2016, the first industry-specific roadmap for the manufacturing sector. A major pillar of the ITMs is the Skills Framework, which provides key information on sector and employment, career pathways, occupations, as well as existing and emerging skills required for different occupations. The Skills Framework helps manufacturing firms design progressive human resource management and talent development plans based on the detailed skills information in the framework. Through the Skills Framework, firms can attract and retain talent in the industry.

SkillsFuture Singapore has also rolled out other SkillsFuture initiatives to prepare new entrants for the manufacturing sector and for existing workers to carve out a rewarding career by developing specialist skills. The SkillsFuture Study Award for Precision Engineering Sector, SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme for Food Manufacturing, SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy are just some examples.

The transformation of the manufacturing sector requires close collaboration with training providers such as SMF's affiliate - SMF Centre for Corporate Learning (SMF CCL). SMF CCL has actively partnered SkillsFuture Singapore to empower manufacturing firms to drive innovation and productivity improvements. This collaboration has manifested in the implementation of productivity-focused training programmes such as WSQ Certified Productivity & Innovation Manager (CPI Manager), SME Quality Initiatives to Assist, Nurture and Grow (SME QIANG) and Lean Enterprise Accelerated Programme (LEAP).

Looking forward, SkillsFuture Singapore and SMF will continue to help the industry transform and become more competitive. I would like to thank SMF for its steadfast support and heartily congratulate SMF on the successful publication of its TradeLink directory.